

Message from the Managing Director

Exciting research is happening at the Justice Center as our researchers have been busy applying for grants, presenting their work, and publishing papers. Dr.'s MacKenzie and McNeeley traveled to Australia and the Netherlands, respectively, to share their research with interested colleagues. This spring a multitude of speakers presented at the Criminology Forum, and the Center invited Candace Kruttschnitt, current ASC president, as our Distinguished Lecture Series Speaker.

PENN STATE *JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH*

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

The Justice Center is delighted to welcome our new administrative coordinator Laura Reddington Moser to our team. Read on to learn about all of our researchers' recent accomplishments.

Dr. Gary Zajac

Justice Center Welcomes New Administrative Coordinator

Laura Reddington Moser joined the Justice Center in January 2015. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Biological and Evolutionary Science from Penn State. While an undergraduate, she worked as a project coordinator at the Lab for Personality, Psychopathology and Psychotherapy Research. She also spent several semesters as a research intern at the International Center for the Study of Terrorism. Prior to joining the Justice Center, Laura was working as a Research Assistant at Penn State's (PRO) Health Lab as a Data Collector/Research Assistant at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE).

Director Delivers Keynote Address

Justice Center for Research Director Doris MacKenzie gave the Keynote Address to The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research at the Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference in Sydney, Australia. Dr. MacKenzie's presentation titled "Reducing the Criminal Activities of Offenders" discussed the importance of reducing recidivism and the aspects of successful programming for offenders.

Managing Director Gives Presentation

The Justice Center for Research's Managing Director Gary Zajac presented at The 2015 International Conference on Proven Collaborative Strategies for Improved Community Wellness and Safety, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Zajac's presentation was titled "From Evidence to Policy: Practitioner- Researcher Partnerships."

Julia Laskorunsky, M.A. Wins ACJS Award

Justice Center Graduate Student Assistant Julia Laskorunsky recently presented at the 2015 Academy of Criminal Justice Science Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. Julia was awarded the ACJS Affirmative Action Student Scholarship Travel Award and won the Student Paper Competition with her paper titled "Specialization and Generalization of Serious Offenders." While attending the meeting Julia served as a student representative at the Inaugural Student Summit.

Susan McNeeley, Ph.D. Gives Research Lecture at NSCR

This Spring Justice Center post-doc Susan McNeeley was invited to present her research at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) as part of their brown bag lecture series. She gave a lecture on her research that examines different ways in which beliefs related to the code of the streets interact with routine activities to influence victimization among adults and youth. According to Elijah Anderson's *Code of the Street* (1999), individuals in disadvantaged communities adopt a set of oppositional values, partly as a way to avoid victimization. However, the research on the effect of the street code on victimization is mixed, with many empirical studies finding that those who adhere to the values provided in the code are at a greater risk for victimization. It is argued that, because the code of the street prescribes hostile or violent methods of resolving conflicts, its followers are at higher risk of victimization due to an increase in target antagonism. Dr. McNeeley's research incorporates lifestyle-routine activities theory into the model in an attempt to explain these inconsistent findings in the literature.

Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS) Award

The National Science Foundation recently made an award of \$323,814 to Penn State to support the Prison Inmate Networks Project, starting April 15, 2015 - March 31, 2017. The study examines the social networks of prison inmates in a state penitentiary and will have important implications for understanding how inmate social networks influence inmate reentry as well as the dynamics of the prison therapeutic setting. Principal Investigator Derek Kreager and Co-Principal Investigator Gary Zajac are collaborating with numerous external scholars to oversee the PINS Project. Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Michaela Soyer has collaborated on all phases of the project and will supervise the data collection process at Rockview. Data collection will begin at SCI Rockview this summer with Justice Center Research Assistant Edward Hayes interviewing inmates.

Grant Submissions

- "Organizational Learning in Response to Sentinel Events in Criminal Justice Systems in Criminal Justice Systems" Gary Zajac, PI, Michaela Soyer, Co-PI. NIJ.
- "A Randomized Control trial of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) Training Initiative" Gary Zajac, PI, Susan McNeeley, Co-PI, Edward Hayes, Research Assistant. NIJ.
- "Capacity Building in Treating Stimulant Drug Users in China" Doris MacKenzie, PI and Deirdre O'Sullivan, Co-PI. NIJ.
- "Explaining the Immigrant Paradox: Activity Spaces and Risk for Adult and Youth Offending and Victimization" Corina Graif, PI and Susan McNeeley, Co-PI. Russell Sage Foundation.
- "Network Mechanisms in a Prison-Based Therapeutic Community" Derek Kreager, PI and Gary Zajac, Co-I. NIH.
- "Replicating the Concepts behind HOPE: An Implementation Study of Swift and Certain Models of Supervision" Gary Zajac as advisor to the Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of NY. BJA.
- "Understanding Veterans' Treatment Courts in the United States" PSU Harrisburg Faculty Affiliate Eileen Ahlin, PI. NIJ.
- "Smart Policing Initiative" PSU Harrisburg Faculty Affiliate Jennifer Gibbs, PI and Gary Zajac, Senior Advisor. BJA.

Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS) Publication

Justice Quarterly recently published an article by Derek Kreager, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology, Gary Zajac, Managing Director, and their colleagues. The manuscript develops a rationale for returning prison sociology to the forefront of criminological inquiry, and suggests that network science provides an ideal framework for achieving this end. The authors highlight the feasibility and promise of inmate network research with findings from a recent small-scale study of a maximum-security prison work unit. The publication can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/07418825.2015.1016090>

Justice Center Project Updates

- Recently, researchers Gary Zajac, Ph.D., Deirdre O'Sullivan, Ph.D., and Edward Hayes, M.A. delivered a report to the PADOX on the Process Evaluation of PADOX Integrated Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment for Female Offenders in PA.
- Doris MacKenzie, Ph.D., Gary Zajac, Ph.D., and Elaine Arsenault, M.A. attended a Data Analysis Meeting for the HOPE Project with our collaborators at RTI in Raleigh, NC to discuss proposed analysis of data and forthcoming papers.

Recent Publications

- British Journal of Criminology recently published an article by Justice Center post-doc Susan McNeeley and Pamela Wilcox titled "Street Codes, Routine Activities, Neighborhood Context and Victimization" The publication can be found here: <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/02/18/bjc.azu116.full.pdf+html>
- Criminology Graduate Student Brendan Lantz and Justice Center Graduate Research Assistant Robert Hutchison Co-Author Article "Co-Offender Ties and the Criminal Career: The Relationship between Co-Offender Group Structure and the Individual Offender" in The Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency. The article can be found at: <http://jrc.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/04/15/0022427815576754.abstract>
- The European Journal of Criminology recently published an article titled "Replication in criminology: A necessary practice" by Justice Center post-doc Susan McNeeley and Jessica J. Warner of University of Cincinnati. The article can be found here: <http://euc.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/03/31/1477370815578197.full.pdf+html>

Coming Up on The Docket:

Justice Center Researchers Head to the following Conferences:

- Doris MacKenzie, Ph.D. presenting at The International Association for Law and Mental Health in Vienna, Austria
- Michaela Soyer, Ph.D. presenting at The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole, and Corrections Conference in Camp Hill, PA
- Diana Phelic Samardzic, M.A. presenting at the National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium in Salt Lake City, UT

Justice Center for Research

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